crops. The second seasonal set back occurred due to excessive post monsoon rainfall in late September-October, 1998, disrupting harvest schedule and supplies. The magnitude of price increase during the seven months was:

	WPI based inflation % increase	CPI based inflation % increase
April, 98	5.6	8,2
May, 98	6.6	10.5
June, 98	7.5	12.4
July, 98	8.3	14.8
August, 98	8.3	15.0
September, 98	8.1	16.3
October, 98	8.2	18.6

(c) A number of policy intiatives have been taken by the Government to check the rise in prices, State Governments were requested to take action against hoarders, black marketers, anti social elements. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oils from 25% to 15%. To moderate further the prices of edible oils. Govt. itself is importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil for supply through PDS. Imports of pulses are allowed under OGL and export has been banned, and import duty of 10% on pulses has been abolished. Export of onions has been banned and it's import has been allowed under OGL duty free to increase domestic availability. Open market sale of wheat from FCI stocks has been authorised. Role of macro-economic factors such as the fiscal deficit and growth of money supply, mentioned by RBI also, cannot be ignored. Control of fiscal deficit is important for managing inflation and growth of the economy.

Trade Practices of Hindustan Lever Limited

1024.SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "Nav Bharat Times" dated the 6th August, 1998 under the heading "Bhedia Karobar Hindustan Lever Par Mukadama Chalaya Ja Sakta Hai"; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SEBI has stated that they had undertaken investigations into the alleged insider trading by Hindustan Lever Ltd. (HLL). After following the prescribed procedure, an order was passed by SEBI on 11th March, 1998 under the SEBI Act, 1992 read with SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, directing HLL to compensate Unit Trust of India to the extent of Rs. 3.04 crore and ordering prosecution under Section 24 read with Section 27 of the SEBI Act against HLL and five of its directors. An appeal was preferred by HLL and others against the order of SEBI to the Appellate Authority in the Central Government under Section 20 of the SEBI Act. The Appellate Authority vide order dated 14th July, 1998 set aside SEBI's order. Following this, SEBI has filed a writ before the Bombay High Court against the order of the Appellate Authority. The matter is now subjudice.

Submission made by North-East Judicial Officers' Welfare Association

1025. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the Silchar-based North-East Judicial Officers Welfare Association has submitted before the First National Judicial Pay Commission that the judiciary is yet to be separated from the executive in some of the seven North-Eastern States; and